

We claim:

1. A method for clearing a re-imageable printing form, which comprises treating the printing form with a fluid clearing medium.
2. A method for clearing a re-imageable printing form, which comprises cleaning the printing form of ink, and treating the cleaned printing form with a fluid clearing medium.
3. A method for clearing a re-imageable printing form, which comprises treating the printing form with a liquid clearing medium.
4. A method for clearing a re-imageable printing form, which comprises treating the printing form with a gaseous clearing medium.
5. The method according to claim 1, which includes treating the printing form with ultrasound during the treatment thereof with the fluid clearing medium.
6. The method according to claim 1, which includes exposing the printing form to the effects of a heat source during the treatment thereof with the fluid clearing medium.

7. The method according to claim 6, which includes providing at least one of an infrared laser, at least one heat emitter and at least one hot-air blower as the heat source.

8. The method according to claim 6, which includes exposing the printing form to higher than normal atmospheric pressure during the treatment with the fluid clearing medium.

9. The method according to claim 5, which includes providing water as the fluid clearing medium.

10. The method according to claim 1, which includes providing acid as the fluid clearing medium.

11. The method according to claim 1, which includes providing an alkali or a base as the fluid clearing medium.

12. The method according to claim 1, which includes applying the fluid clearing medium to the printing form from at least one sprayer.

13. The method according to claim 4, which includes removing the printing form from the influence of light during the treatment with the gaseous clearing medium.

14. The method according to claim 10, which includes providing oxygen as the gaseous clearing medium.

15. The method according to claim 1, which includes performing the steps thereof in one of a printing machine and a clearing device outside a printing machine.

16. A device for clearing a re-imageable printing form, comprising a device for applying fluid clearing medium to the printing form.

17. A device for clearing a re-imageable printing form washed free of ink, comprising a device for applying fluid clearing medium to the ink-free printing form.

18. The device for clearing a re-imageable printing form according to claim 13, wherein said device for applying fluid clearing medium serves for applying liquid clearing medium to the printing form.

19. The device for clearing a re-imageable printing form, according to claim 13, wherein said device for applying fluid clearing medium serves for applying gaseous clearing medium to the printing form.

20. The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 13, including an ultrasound source for irradiating the printing form with ultrasound.

21. The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 13, including a heat source for heating the printing form.

22. The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 18, wherein said heat source is at least one of an infra-red laser, at least one heat emitter, and at least one hot-air blower.

23. The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 18, including a device for generating higher than normal atmospheric pressure in the environment of the printing form.

24. The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 13, wherein said device for applying fluid clearing medium to the printing form is a sprayer.

25. The device for clearing a printing form according to claim 13, including a device for partitioning the printing form against effects of light.

26. A printing machine having a device for clearing a re-imageable printing form, comprising a device for applying fluid clearing medium to the printing form.

[illegible]